

Kentucky Public Library Section

Report to the Board

Louisville, Kentucky

June 2, 2012

KPLA/KLTRT Spring Conference – This year's conference in Bowling Green saw record breaking attendance by trustees with almost 90 in attendance. They were there to participate in the new Trustee Training Certification process. Overall attendance was at 410. Not quite as high as last year but a record year for Bowling Green. Great comments were left on the evaluation forms with some suggestions for improvements next year. Ashley Fowlkes is Chair of next year's conference and we have already met once to go over the evaluations and begin the planning process for next year. Our addition of early bird registration and online registration had a significant positive impact on the process this year. Thanks to Ashley and Tom for working that out. Susan Nimersheim was a wonderful conference chair and she survived the event with no permanent scarring.

Advocacy –The lawsuit against Kenton and Campbell County Public Libraries progresses slowly. The libraries have filed a Motion to Dismiss which is presently being considered by Judge Bunning in federal court. Since the plaintiffs made federal charges against the libraries, the case was moved to federal court. A group of citizens has also filed suit against the McLean Fiscal Court and the McLean County Public Library regarding the statutory authority for the Fiscal Court to set up a special taxing district.

Kentucky Library Legislative Day has been set for February 20, 2013. It's a short session this year but we expect legislation concerning libraries to be introduced. It's also possible that legislation resulting from the statewide audit of special taxing districts could be introduced. We will be watchful.

This year's Library Legislative Day was very productive. In addition to meeting with legislators and/or their aides, we also scored a visit to the White House, the Capitol and the Kennedy Center. Thanks to Lisa Rice for most of that!

KPLA Board Meeting – April 11, 2012. A few highlights from that meeting - The Intellectual Freedom Committee has developed web page that provides information for anyone facing a challenge. It is a wealth of information and can be found on the KPLA web site. Public relations is hosting a viral video challenge. These are due August 15th and must contain several specific elements. Check with Ashley Fowlkes for details.

Sister Libraries Project – Congratulations to the Ballard/Carlisle Public Library and its new sister libraries: Fulton County Public Library, Graves County Public Library, Marshall County Public Library, and McCracken County Public Library -- they have officially become sister libraries! This is a unique spin on the way sister libraries work together. Until now, we've had one-to-one library partnerships. This one will be a four-to-one collaboration, which is very exciting! This brings the total number of participating libraries to 19. Huge thanks to Susan Dunman, KDLA Regional Library Consultant, Region 1, for her role in facilitating this new partnership.

From the Chair – Recently I was contacted by State Auditor Adam Edelen's office regarding the upcoming reviews of the financial records of special taxing districts around the state. As libraries are, for the most part, special taxing districts, the Auditor's office asked if KPLA would be willing to write a letter of support for these efforts. I was very glad that the Auditor, who was actually at the KPLA conference this year, had thought of libraries. With the input of the KPLA Executive Board and the Advocacy Committee, I agreed to send a letter. Libraries are a good use of taxpayer dollars and we're good stewards of the money that's entrusted to us. The letter to the Auditor's Office indicates the measures that we have put in place for accountability and transparency in what we do. I don't think libraries have any reason to fear the overview by the Auditor and I hope that his efforts will prove that libraries are responsible in the use of their resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha L. White
Chair
Kentucky Public Library Association